

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of the Claims

Claim 1 is amended to recite features of previously dependent claim 2. Claim 6 is amended to address objections. No new matter is added. Claim 2 is cancelled, without disclaimer or prejudice to avoid redundancy.

Claim Objections

Claims 6-11 were objected to as having informalities. In particular, the Examiner stated that it is unclear as to what is being referred to by the “k-th rolling step.” In addition, the Examiner stated that the phrase “said wire a n times” is not clear. In response, claim 6 is amended to clarify that “k-th” was intended to refer to the number k (where “k” is defined in the claim as a finite integer satisfying $n \geq k \geq 2$). In the amended version of claim 6, the “th” has been moved to a superscript of the letter k (i.e., as k^{th}), consistent with the ordinary and customary usage of the superscript “th” to denote a number (such as in the use of the superscript in the numbers 4th, 5th, or 100th). It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the superscript “th” on the letter “k” as used in claim 6, as a common manner of indicating a number (e.g., the number “k”) of a step or item. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection to claims 6-11 be withdrawn, in view of the amendments to claim 6 made herein.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Okayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,103,669, hereinafter Okayama). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of claim 1 as amended herein. In particular, claim 1 is amended herein to include the subject matter of previously dependent claim 2. As claim 2 had been identified in the Office Action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is submitted that the amended version of claim

1 is equivalent to a rewriting of the original claim 2 in independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1, as amended herein, is in condition for allowance, at least for the reasons that claim 2 had been identified as being allowable, if rewritten in independent form. The rejection of claim 1 is, therefore, respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okayama et al. in view of Meyer et al. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okayama et al. in view of Meyer et al. and further in view of Yamauchi et al. As each of claims 3 and 5 is dependent on claim 1, the above comments regarding claim 1 apply to claims 3 and 5 as well. In particular, claim 1 is allowable over the references of record for reasons discussed above. Claims 3 and 5 are allowable over those references of record at least for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to claim 1. The rejections of claims 3 and 5 is, therefore, respectfully traversed.

Claims 6-11

Applicant notes with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 6-11 appear to be allowable over the references of record, if those claims were reformulated to overcome the objection noted above. As claim 6 has been amended herein to overcome the above-noted objection, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-11 are in condition for allowance.

Concluding Remarks

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3 and 5-11 are pending in this application.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment,

to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

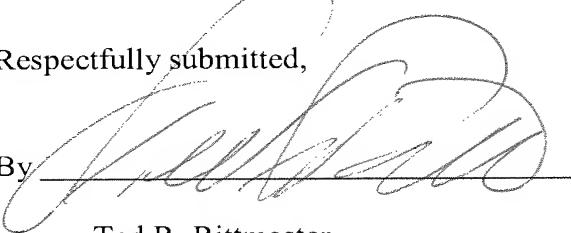
Date

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Respectfully submitted,

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